

CBC NEWSLETTER

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WINTER 1988

WINTER MEETING AT MOREHEAD CITY, NC

The winter meeting of the Carolina Bird Club will be held in the Morehead City, NC area February 3-5, 1989. The meeting headquarters will be the Holiday Inn-Atlantic Beach. Please use the form provided in the Newsletter to make reservations by January 15. If the Newsletter is delayed by the Christmas rush, please call the Holiday Inn at (919) 726-2544. Try even if after deadline.

To reach the Holiday Inn take NC 24 or US 70 into Morehead City. At 24th Street turn right onto bridge that crosses the Inland Waterway to Atlantic Beach. At the stop sign turn right onto NC 58 and go about 3 miles. You will see the Holiday Inn on your left. Those coming from the south may wish to take NC 58 bridge from Cape Carteret to Emerald Isle, continuing on NC 58 about 15 miles until you see the Holiday Inn on your right.

The cost of the motel is \$35 plus tax (\$36.75) double occupancy (this includes breakfast). Add \$5 each for third and fourth person in room. Other motels are available in the area. There are campgrounds at Emerald Isle and Salter Path. There is a variety of restaurants in the Morehead City-Beaufort-Atlantic Beach area. At least two of the seafood restaurants on the Morehead City waterfront will be open by early February.

This will be primarily a birding meeting. Many of you will remember the last winter meeting held in the Morehead City area (1980) when we had Harlequin Ducks, Iceland Gulls, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Henslow's Sparrow and Red-cockaded Woodpeckers.

Planned for this meeting (weather permitting) is a pelagic trip aboard the Carolina Princess. Note that this is a large, stable headboat which has a heated passenger area. The tentative agenda for this trip is to run out to Cape Lookout and the shoals beyond; checking the fishing trawlers and looking for a good tide line, and then working northwest toward shallower waters. We will be hoping for rare gulls, an alcid, Northern Fulmar, Great Skua, etc. This trip will cost \$50 per person. Please register on the form provided and send form with a February 4, 1989 dated check payable to Carolina Bird Club, Inc. to John Fussell, 1412 Shepard Street, Morehead City 28557; telephone (919) 240-1046. Please register by January 15, if possible.

Several other trips are planned, including Ft. Macon and a special gull search. Details will be available at registration which begins at 3:30 p.m. at the motel. By the way, the remains of an old fishing pier are just east of the Holiday Inn, and this is a good spot to check for a Harlequin Duck or Great Cormorant.

REPORT OF FALL MEETING

The fall meeting of the Carolina Bird Club was held at Columbia, SC, October 7-9, 1988. Registrants numbered 97. Friday night was devoted to a discussion of the upcoming field trips. Later in the evening several carloads of birders made an unsuccessful attempt to locate Yellow Rails in an area where they had been heard last October. The first of the Saturday field trips was to Evelyn and Tommy Dabbs' farm some 75 minutes drive from Columbia. Those who took this trip were enthusiastic about Evelyn's banding demonstration and about the buffet lunch put out by Tommy. The second major all day trip, led by Jack Stewart, was along trails and the boardwalk in the Congaree Swamp National Monument. With the exception of the Red-cockaded, the woodpecker tribe is represented in abundance in this beautiful bottomland hardwood forest. A third

(continued next page)

REPORT OF FALL MEETING CONTINUED. . .

trip, led by Robbin Carter, went along the Saluda River. A total of 96 species was tallied for Saturday. Prior to the countdown Jack Stewart presented an audio-visual slideshow on setting up a bluebird trail.

... BOB HADER ...

AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS PROPOSED

In accordance with Article IX, section 1 of the CBC Bylaws, a Bylaws Committee was formed and charged with the task of revising the bylaws pertaining to the operation of a Species Records Committee. It is the recommendation of this committee that the current bylaws pertaining to the Records Committee (articles 1 through 5) be amended to read as the separately attached item. Because of the urgency of this matter, this proposed change will be voted upon at the winter CBC meeting in Morehead City. The current bylaws read as follows:

Species Records Committee

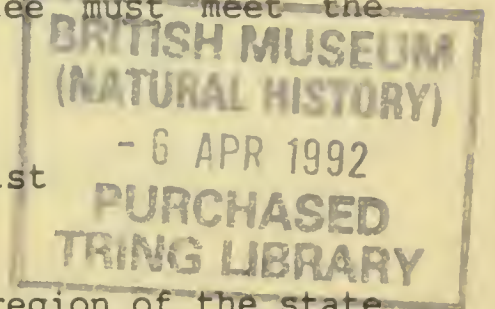
- (1) There shall be two State Records Committees. They are to function independently in evaluating reports of unusual birds and in preparing their own state bird lists.
- (2) The Chairs of the two State Records Committees shall be appointed by the President with approval of the Executive Committee.
- (3) Each State Records Committee shall be filled by the President with the approval of the Executive Committee from lists presented by the two States Records Committee Chairs.
- (4) The committees of the two states are to cooperatively determine and to review at intervals the criteria for acceptance of birds to the respective state bird lists.
- (5) Updated bird lists and reports are to appear at intervals in The Chat and the Newsletter or other appropriate publications.

Because of the greatly expanded and detailed nature of the proposed amendments, the Bylaws Committee felt some explanation was warranted. Generally, the need for this undertaking was necessitated by two events. First, during the past several years, there has been widespread concern that the Records Committees were not functioning as they should or were intended to. The urgency for efficient Records Committees is that the decisions of those Committees and subsequent publication in The Chat become public record that reaches the international scientific community. Because research scientists outside the Carolinas and North America use these published decisions as valid data, the integrity of the committees cannot be compromised. Second, within the past year, there has been a nation-wide effort to standardize the operations of the Records Committees from all 50 states. The proposed bylaws amendments would bring the operation of the Records Committees from North and South Carolina into line with that being done in the rest of the country.

Dr. Sidney A. Gauthreaux, Jr., CBC President
Dr. Michael H. Tove, Chairman, Bylaws Committee

Species Records Committees

- (1) There shall be two State Records Committees that operate under a unified set of guidelines. Membership on the Committee of one state neither precludes nor guarantees membership on the Committee of the other.
- (2) Each Committee shall include a voting chair and six voting members for a total of seven members. All members of either Committee must meet the following four qualifications (a-d):
 - (a) active field birder competent in field identification
 - (b) interest and knowledge in the respective state bird list
 - (c) field experience outside the Southeast United States
 - (d) meet at least two of the following:
 - (1) expertise in bird distribution from a geographic region of the state
 - (2) expertise in one or more group of birds
 - (3) made recent contributions to literature about ornithology from the Carolinas
 - (4) more than casual field experience with at least 90% of species recorded from the state for which the member is serving (experience can come from outside the state)
- (3) The chair must be a resident of the state for the Records Committee on which he/she serves in that capacity. No person may simultaneously chair the Records Committees from both states. The chair shall be elected at the annual Records Committee meeting from the seven members of that state's Records Committee by vote of the Committee members only. Arguments for or against an individual's candidacy as chair may be made by any CBC member either in attendance or by proxy. The term of office for the chair shall be two years unless a written request by the chair is presented, resigning from the chairship or the committee, or is impeached from office by majority vote of the remaining members. There is no limitation on the number of terms, consecutive or otherwise, that an individual may serve as Committee chair.
- (4) In the event that a Records Committee becomes dysfunctional, the CBC President, with approval of the Executive Committee, may disband the Committee and appoint a new chair who will then select the remaining Committee Members with approval of the Executive Committee.
- (5) New Records Committee members are approved by the Executive Committee following recommendation by majority vote of the existing Records Committee members.
- (6) The role of each Records Committee is to judge the validity of bird Sightings of Significance and to maintain the state bird lists. A Sighting of Significance is defined as:
 - (a) Any previously unrecorded species of bird from the state in which it was seen.
 - (b) Any record which would elevate a species from a lower category of acceptance to a higher one on the list hierarchy for the state in which it occurred.
 - (c) Any species for which there are 10 or fewer records for the season or geographic region in which it occurred.



- (7) Sightings of Significance are appropriate for consideration when published in a refereed journal provided that a thorough description of the bird's distinguishing field marks are published, regardless of the stated presence of unpublished evidence such as a photograph, sound recording, specimen, etc. Unpublished Sightings of Significance are documented on Records Committee-approved Rare Bird Report forms, made available by the chair, or by other Committee-acceptable format. Unpublished physical evidence (e.g., specimen) may also be considered provided that such is made available to all Committee Members in an appropriate setting such as the annual Records Committee meeting.
- (8) Species reported from a state may be placed on one of five lists for that state:
- (a) Verified State List:
- (1) includes all species documented by an appropriately archived voucher specimen.
 - (2) includes all species documented by an unambiguous photograph, voice recording, video tape or other physical evidence that is published in a refereed journal and/or similarly archived as is a voucher specimen.
 - (3) includes special cases in which sightings are documented (and archived as above) at the genus level but are indistinguishable at the species level on the physical evidence available, provided that none of the contenders is already on the Official State List. The genus with the possible contenders is then listed as "Genus name (sp?), contender1/contender2/..." with the most likely contender listed first.
- (b) Official State List:
- (1) includes the Verified State List.
 - (2) all species (including "special cases") documented by at least four accepted, separate sight records, of which at least one is published with details in a refereed journal. "Documented" implies a written description of the bird including pertinent identification marks. The term "separate sight record" indicates separate occurrences of one or more different individuals (but not a single flock regardless of the number involved) or repeated occurrence of a single individual in which occurrences are separated by one or more seasons of non-occurrence. The Records Committee may elect to withhold Official State List status in the event that all four records are by the same single observer.
- (c) Provisional List:
- (1) All species documented and accepted by the Records Committee as valid which have not met the criteria for acceptance to the Official State List.
- (d) Unaccepted Origin List:
- (1) Any published record from a state where the reported bird is judged to have occurred outside the geographic boundaries of that state.
 - (2) Any report of a bird judged by the Records Committee to be correctly identified but also judged to be of introduced or escaped origin. Although certain groups (e.g., waterfowl) are notorious for being introduced, each record will be judged independently on its own

merits. However, guidelines for acceptance will follow the most current opinions of the American Ornithologists' Union and/or American Birding Association for each species unless compelling evidence to the contrary is presented.

(e) Unaccepted Sighting List:

- (1) Any bird that has been reported in the literature but is considered a likely misidentification.
- (2) Any bird reported in the literature where-in that report would otherwise elevate the species to a higher level on the state list, for which published details of that report are inadequate for acceptance, in spite of possible authenticity of identification.

(9) The chair will mail or otherwise deliver to each member, copies of reports submitted for consideration and request a response in the form of a vote for one of five categories.

- (a) Accepted as valid; the reported identification is judged to be accurate and the bird is judged to be of wild origin.
- (b) Sighting accepted as valid, origin questionable; the identification is judged to be accurate but the bird is judged to be a likely escapee or a member of an unestablished, introduced population, or to have received significant human assistance such that the bird's survival without that assistance would have been very unlikely.
- (c) Rejected as misidentified; the bird is judged to be a species other than that reported.
- (d) Returned for additional information; the report was insufficiently documented for consideration as a record.
- (e) Abstained on the basis of insufficient experience to judge; a Records Committee member who feels that his/her knowledge of a particular species is limited, may choose to abstain from voting on a given report either pending the opinions of outside reviewers or accepting the decision of the remaining members of the Records Committee.

(10) Records Committee members may use any resource at their disposal in reaching a decision but should not confer with each other prior to a decision.

(11) For each record submitted to members for vote, a time deadline shall be established by the chair not to exceed 6 weeks for return of the decision by each member. Failure to vote by the deadline will constitute a non-vote and is counted neither for nor against the record. Committee members who refrain from voting on a given record forfeit their right to participate in future discussion of that record unless it is resubmitted for a vote in which they participate. Any member who fails to vote on two consecutive occasions or more than three of ten occasions will be removed from the Committee.

- (12) The chair will tally the votes for each record and report the results to the Committee members within six weeks of the vote.
- (a) A record is accepted on the first ballot by majority vote (at least 4) for the same category of acceptance and by fewer than any 2 non-acceptance votes (rejected, returned, abstained).
 - (b) A record is rejected on the first ballot by majority vote (at least 4).
 - (c) Any 2 or 3 (but not 4) non-acceptance votes on the first ballot results in one of the following:
 - (1) acceptance withheld pending more information from the reporting party.
 - (2) report is submitted to outside referees for evaluation and returned to the Committee members for their reevaluation at which time abstinence votes are not allowed.
 - (d) Final decision of the Records Committee is by majority vote. In the case that no majority for a given level of acceptance exists, the record will be accepted at the highest level on the list hierarchy at which majority agreement occurs.
- (13) The Records Committee may meet as frequently as deemed necessary by the chair or by majority request of the members but must hold at least one business meeting each year. Meetings of the Records Committee are open to any interested persons. Guests may participate in open discussions as appropriate. Any Committee business including records may be voted on at these meetings but are conducted by secret ballot and tabulated by the chair. Voting at the meetings is limited to Committee members and the designated proxy of each absent member. The assignment of species to their respective places on the state lists, as needed, shall occur at the annual Records Committee business meeting.
- (14) An annual report of each Records Committee shall be published in The Chat. The precise format is at the discretion of the chair and Chat editor but must include a complete listing of species accepted, or moved from one category to another and include rationale for the change. Reports submitted to a Records Committee, and subsequently rejected, should not be listed unless that record has been published elsewhere. Previously published reports that are subsequently rejected (i.e., placed on the Unaccepted Sighting List) by the Committee must include the rationale for that decision.
- (15) The Records Committee is free to evaluate any report within its respective state including those already published or those submitted for publication. However, for records submitted for publication in The Chat, the Records Committee is barred from voting on or discussing that submission during the time the report is being refereed. The only allowable exception is in the event that separate documents, by separate authors have been submitted to both the Records Committee and an editor of The Chat. In such cases, the report not submitted for publication may be judged on its merits alone and independently of those under review for publication in The Chat.

Membership Application and Order Form

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (____) _____ (home) (____) _____ (business)

ENTER/NEW MEMBERSHIP AS INDICATED

____ Individual (\$12) ____ Life (\$200)
____ Family (\$15) ____ Patron (\$50)
____ Student (\$6) ____ Affiliate Club (\$15)
____ Library/Institution (\$15)

Make check payable to Carolina Bird Club, Inc. and
mail to P. O. Box 27647, Raleigh, NC 27611.

SEND MATERIALS INDICATED

____ CBC Cloth Arm Patch \$1.50 (1), \$1.25 each in quantity
____ CBC Decals (water type) 75c (1) 50c each in quantity
____ Daily Checklists 10/\$1; 25/\$1.25; 50/\$2.50; 75/\$3.75; 100/\$5.00
____ Birds of the Carolinas \$13.45 plus \$1.25 for mailing
____ Amphibians and Reptiles of the Carolinas
\$13.45 plus \$1.25 for mailing

PELAGIC TRIP RESERVATION FORM

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Enclosed is my February 4, 1989 dated check payable to Carolina Bird Club, Inc. in the amount of \$ _____ for _____ reservations on the Carolina Princess at \$50 each.

Mail with check to JOHN FUSSELL, 1412 Shepard Street, Morehead City, NC 28557

HOLIDAY INN RESERVATION FORM

Carolina Bird Club Winter Meeting, February 3-5, 1989

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

ROOM RATE (double occupancy) \$35 plus tax \$5 each for additional persons

Please reserve _____ room(s) at \$ _____ per night plus tax. My check for the first night's lodging is enclosed. I will arrive _____ and depart _____.

Mail with deposit to HOLIDAY INN, P.O. Box 280, Atlantic Beach, NC 28512 Tel. (919) 726-2544

REGISTRATION FORM

CBC Winter Meeting, February 3-5, 1989

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ _____ for _____ member registrations at \$4 each and _____ nonmember registrations at \$5 each.

Mail to CAROLINA BIRD CLUB, INC., PO Box 27647, Raleigh, NC 27611

Welcome New Members

ELVA BROWN
Walhalla, SC

FRED & BRENDA CROWLEY
Camp Lejeune, NC

GARVIN & LOUISE HUGHES
Hickory, NC

JOSEPH & FRIEDA BROWN
Taylors, SC

GLENN A. ENGLEHARDT
Lexington, SC

JAMES & ANN P. KALAT
Raleigh, NC

KEVIN CALHOON
Lexington, SC

MAXILLA E. EVANS
Waynesville, NC

DON McCULLOUGH
Chapel Hill, NC

DONNA W. CLARK
Charleston, SC

JANICE FOY
Lexington, SC

LEN & ESTHER PARDUE
Durham, NC

PAUL & DOT CRAWFORD
Greer, SC

GENE HOWE
Goldsboro, NC

CLYDE SORENSON
Raleigh, NC

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WING HAVEN FOUNDER DIES

Elizabeth Barnhill Clarkson, 84, of Charlotte, North Carolina died October 9, 1988 at her home, "Wing Haven," a garden and bird sanctuary which she founded.

Mrs. Clarkson was a native of Uvalde, Texas and received her formal education at the New England Conservatory of Music, Boston, Massachusetts.

Mrs. Clarkson was a teacher who shared her garden, her ideas, and her talents with many. She opened her garden to school groups and the public long before she and Mr. Clarkson made their formal gift of the gardens to The Wing Haven Foundation in 1970. Memorials may be sent to the foundation at 248 Ridgewood Ave, Charlotte, NC 28209.

DECEASED

The Carolina Bird Club notes with regret the death of the following members:

ELIZABETH BARNHILL CLARKSON
Charlotte, NC

GERALDINE COX
Washington, NC

SHRIKE INFO NEEDED

Once again, Wayne Irvin is soliciting shrike sightings, this time in North Carolina only. Observations in the western counties are especially valuable. Please give precise location, if in writing, or call Wayne collect at (919) 828-0437, evenings. Mailing address: 3600 Penny Ct, Raleigh, NC 27606.

*****CBC RARE BIRD ALERT*****

704-332-BIRD

CBC NEWSLETTER is published quarterly by Carolina Bird Club, Inc., the ornithological society of the Carolinas, with headquarters at Raleigh, N. C. CBC is a nonprofit corporation, founded in 1937, with membership open to anyone interested in birds, natural history and conservation.

Members are encouraged to submit items of interest to CBC Newsletter, Clyde Smith, Editor, 2615 Wells Ave., Raleigh, NC 27608.

CAROLINA BIRD CLUB Inc



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